Parents as Teachers

Imagination Library

Countdown to Kindergarten

1000 Books before Kindergarten

Child Care Scholarships

Annual Report
2016-17

OUR VISION:
Every South Carolina child will arrive at kindergarten ready to succeed.
By The Numbers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>SC</th>
<th>Fairfield County</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Children Under Five</td>
<td>293,134</td>
<td>1,522</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children In Poverty</td>
<td>24.4%</td>
<td>33.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd Graders Scoring “Does Not Meet” Standard in Reading</td>
<td>22.2%</td>
<td>32.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Births to Mothers With Less Than a High School Diploma</td>
<td>15.0%</td>
<td>12.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

KIDS COUNT data provided by Children’s Trust

- Since inception, Fairfield County First Steps has leveraged $1,141,685 from sources outside state government. **That’s $.40 for every dollar received**

- **397 hours of support and guidance** were provided to 17 families in our Parents As Teachers Program

- Distributed over 6500 books to children in our community

- Improved parenting practices through **15.5 hours of group meetings**

- Total families served: 337

- Total Children Served in FY17: 588

Fairfield County First Steps
101 North Congress St. Ste. 1
Winnsboro, SC 29180
Phone: (803) 635-1590
Fax: (803) 635-6873

**Board Chair**
Rebecca T. Douglas
rtrowell@yahoo.com

**Executive Director**
Patti Wilkes
PYWilkes@truvista.net

Patti Wilkes
Executive Director

While the office of Fairfield County First Steps saw changes in personnel, the programs did not have any major changes. We continue to serve families through Parents As Teachers, serving 20 families now that we have a full-time Parent Educator. We also offer Imagination Library, 1000 Books Before Kindergarten, Countdown to Kindergarten and Childcare Tuition Assistance programs. Additionally, we partnered with the local DSS office to add a library to their lobby.

As a part of our continued collaboration with the Fairfield Community Coordinating Council, the Council joined forces with the Fairfield Memorial Hospital Foundation, to write a grant through the Duke Endowment. First Steps will receive Needs and Resources information through this grant.

Fairfield County First Steps in now partnering with the Palmetto Project in an effort to increase the number of children receiving books through our Imagination Library program. Any child living in Fairfield County is eligible to receive books through this program until their 5th birthday.

United Way of the Midlands continues to partner with First Steps for our Countdown to Kindergarten program. We employed five local kindergarten teachers for the Summer 2016 CTK program. The Fairfield County School District once again covered the cost of the toolkits for this program. The 50 identified students have been enrolled in the K5 programs across Fairfield County that began August 2016.

In partnership with the Fairfield County Library, Fairfield County First Steps held our Second Annual Literacy Walk. Again the walk was led by Sheriff Will Montgomery. The walk encompassed a short path along the walking trail at historic Mt. Zion through town and finished at the library where families were welcomed to the celebration of the library’s Summer Reading kick-off.

County Programs
- Parents as Teachers
- 1000 Books before Kindergarten
- Imagination Library
- Countdown to Kindergarten
- Childcare Scholarships

State Programs
- Early Head Start
- First Steps 4k
Each of the six color blocks of the First Steps logo represents a core area of service, outlining our comprehensive strategy to prepare children for long-term school success.

With measurable outcomes across each of its six school readiness strategy areas, First Steps is getting results.

**Healthy Start**
We begin with a focus on providing a healthy start to life. This includes prenatal and post-partum services for both mother and baby. In 2007, First Steps collaborated with key philanthropic and agency partners to bring Nurse-Family Partnership to SC having a significant impact on reducing premature births and Medicaid costs.

**Quality Childcare**
Quality childcare starts with quality childcare providers. Our quality enhancement and training strategies lead to improved teacher-student interaction, which research shows has a significant impact on a child’s development and success in school.

**Family Strengthening**
Our home visitation strategies, such as Parents as Teachers, Parent-Child Home and Early Steps to School Success, are helping parents understand their responsibilities to care for and be positive models for their children. As a result of First Steps’ intervention and parenting support, 66% of clients initially assessed at “low” levels of parenting have achieved moderate or high levels of parenting skill.

**Early Education**
Private-public partnerships through First Steps 4K have led to significant cost efficiencies in the delivery of publicly funded 4K. One recent analysis suggests First Steps is achieving comparable results, without the need for costly capital construction, for 80 cents on the dollar. Early Head Start expands quality early learning and family support to infants and toddlers.

**Early Intervention**
Children's school readiness depends on their healthy growth and development. First Steps helps identify potential delays early through developmental screenings and referring children to BabyNet and other early intervention resources.

**School Transition**
Each of the corresponding blocks of services leads ultimately to the goal of transitioning children successfully to school. Programs like Countdown to Kindergarten are ultimately preparing children for school success.

Based on the needs of our community, Fairfield County First Steps focuses its investments in Quality Childcare, Family Strengthening, and School Transition.
Parents are their child’s first and best teachers.

Program Description

Parents as Teachers (PAT) is an evidence-based home visiting program designed to build strong communities, thriving families and children who are healthy, safe and ready to succeed. PAT services include:

1. **Personal Visits** at least twice monthly
2. **Monthly Group Connections** with other PAT families
3. **Screenings and Assessments** to identify developmental concerns
4. **Connections to Outside Resources** that families may need to succeed

Fairfield County First Steps serves families in greatest need. Among our PAT families:

- 95% live in poverty
- 42% are teen custodial parents
- 42% of the children have been exposed to caregiver depression
- 30% of children weighed less than 5.5lbs at birth

Sadriana:

“I want to stay a part of this program because it makes me feel like I am learning to become a better mother to my child.”

**PAT by the Numbers 2016-17**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Families Served</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children Served</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Home Visits</td>
<td>359</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hours Spent Serving Families</td>
<td>365</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average gain, Keys to Interactive Parenting Scale (pre-to-post):</td>
<td>3.09 3.35</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This year, our Parents as Teachers program:

- Averaged 2.19 home visits per family
- Identified and addressed 15 potential developmental delays and 22 delays
- Out of 17 families, 64 referrals were made to meet the various needs of our families.
- Improved parenting practices made great strides in the area of language and reading. All parents are now reporting that they read to their child a minimum of three times per week.
- Improved literacy skills are shown by the parents awareness of the importance of recalling information and predicting the outcomes of stories.

Thank you to our partners!

Fairfield County DSS
SC BabyNet
Fairfield County School District
**Program Description**

As stated in our mission, we strive to do whatever it takes to be sure “Every child arrives at school ready to succeed.” With that mission in mind, we started the 1000 Books before Kindergarten program to be certain that we are reaching EVERY child before they reach kindergarten.

Fairfield County First Steps distributed over 2000 books to the CD4 classrooms across Fairfield County in FY 2017. Parents participated by completing the Reading Logs of their children and returning them to the teacher. The teachers participated in scheduling times for us to visit with the students. The students, our most important participants, became active listeners.

Fairfield County First Steps partnered with Fairfield County DSS providing a Library in the lobby of the local DSS/DHEC office. Books were monitored by the receptionist. An important thing to report is that no books were destroyed while there in the lobby! These books were free to any who visited the DSS lobby.

This year, our other Literacy programs:

- Distributed over 2000 books to CD4 students through the 1000 Books Before Kindergarten program
- Made 9 visits to each of 12 classrooms, reading four to five books each visit
- Distributed 350 books through the library at our local DSS office

Thank you to our partners!

Fairfield County Library
Fairfield County School District
First Book

**Reading four to five books per visit and making at least nine visits per school year makes 1000 Books Before Kindergarten a highlight for the CD4 students and teachers!**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Other Literacy by the Numbers 2016-17</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Children Served</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visits to CD4 classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Books distributed through DSS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Books distributed through 1000 Books before Kindergarten</td>
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Fairfield County First Steps
101 N Congress St., Ste 1
Winnsboro, SC 29180
803-635-1590
Program Description
According to the Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University, the peak period for brain development related to language is around nine months of age. One of the easiest and most effective ways to build this capacity in young children’s brains is to read to them.

Fairfield County First Steps is the local sponsor of Dolly Parton Imagination Library, which provides free, age-appropriate books to children age birth to 5 years. Operated by the Dollywood Foundation, Imagination Library is currently in more than 1,600 communities internationally and mails books to about 700,000 children each month.

Children who register with Fairfield County First Steps receive one book per month by mail through the month of their fifth birthday. Each book is carefully selected by a committee of educational specialists.

Imagination Library by the Numbers, 2016-17

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<table>
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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Children Served</td>
<td>314</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Books Given to Children 0-5</td>
<td>3472</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This year, our Imagination Library program:

- Provided one book per month to 314 children.
- 100% of our clients of other First steps programs are registered for the Dolly Parton Imagination Library program.
- Was funded in part by a fundraiser held by the First Steps Partnership Board.

Thank you to our partners!
- Dollywood Foundation
- Fairfield County Library
- Fairfield County School District
- Palmetto Project
Program Description

Access to quality child care is essential for children while away from their primary caregivers. Yet, of those families income-eligible for child care assistance in South Carolina, only a small fraction receive it due to lack of funds. In the absence of nurturing and consistently available family, friends or neighbors, parents are faced with few, or no, affordable care options.

Fairfield County First Steps serves families in greatest need. Among our scholarship families:

- **100%** ... live in poverty
- **40%** ... were exposed to parental depression
- **20%** ... were exposed to domestic violence
- **30%** ... had delays or potential delays

In addition to regular monitoring of child care providers that receive First Steps scholarships, First Steps conducts at least one developmental screening each year with scholarship children and connects families to needed services within the community.

Every child who is a part of the childcare scholarship program is enrolled in to the Dolly Parton Imaginatin Library. The parents in this program are also required to attend the monthly Parent Workshops that are held on the third Tuesday of each month.

Scholarships by the Numbers, 2016-17

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Children Served</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Providers Served</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This year, our Scholarship program:

- Provided 10 children with scholarship assistance so their parents could work or attend school
- Identified and addressed potential developmental delays among 3 scholarship children
- Made 8 connections for families to services such as adult education, food assistance, housing/clothing assistance, and 3/4K referral
- Supported 2 small businesses in Fairfield County by subsidizing child care tuition for families who would not otherwise be able to afford quality care

Thank you to our partners!

- Winsboro Woman’s Club
- Fairfield Medical Center
- Italian Garden Restaurant
Bringing parents and teachers together as partners sets the foundation for success in school.

Program Description
Countdown to Kindergarten (CTK) is a summer home visitation model connecting rising kindergartners and their families with their future teachers. The program is designed:

✓ to forge strong and lasting home-school relationships,
✓ to acquaint children and families with the state and classroom expectations to increase the likelihood of school success,
✓ to increase parent involvement in the early grades (particularly in hard-to-reach communities), when children’s learning is foundational for life success; and
✓ to increase public awareness of the importance of school readiness and provide ways for parents and communities to impact children’s early school success.

Countdown to Kindergarten integrates all of the following:

Home Visitation. Teachers make six visits over the summer to the homes of participating students and families. Children and families are introduced to actual materials used in kindergarten and are given a Kindergarten Transition Toolkit to keep.

Learning Celebration. The last visit is a “field trip” to the school where the child will attend class in the fall.

Public Awareness. Throughout the summer, First Steps releases tips to media to help parents and caregivers get children ready for kindergarten.

This year, our Countdown to Kindergarten program:

✓ Increased the parents relationship with their child’s teacher from the pre-survey of 35% to post-survey of 66.61% as someone the parent knows and trusts well
✓ Increased the child’s relationship with the teacher from 22.5% to 66.67% as someone the child knows and trusts well

*CTK by the Numbers, Summer 2016

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Children Served</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Families Served</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home/School Visits</td>
<td>205</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*CTK program data is for June-August 2017 whereas CTK fiscal data includes expenditures from July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017.

Thank you to our partners!
Fairfield County School District
Kaplan Early Learning Company
Fairfield County Library

Like us on Facebook!
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101 North Congress St, Ste 1
Winnsboro, SC 29180
803-635-1590
Financial Impact

Fairfield County First Steps
2016-17 Expenditures
by Funding Source

Total 2016-17 Expenditures: $243,940
State Funds Leveraged in 2016-17*: 27.5%
*Percentage of state dollars matched by additional federal, private, and/or in-kind funds

Unaudited numbers for the period July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017

2016-17 Expenditures by Strategy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategy</th>
<th>State $</th>
<th>Federal $</th>
<th>Private $</th>
<th>In-Kind $</th>
<th>Total $</th>
<th>% of 2016-17 Expenditures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parents as Teachers</td>
<td>$54,558</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$1,286</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$55,845</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Imagination Library</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$4,648</td>
<td>$43,114</td>
<td>$49,762</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Countdown to Kindergarten</td>
<td>$9,855</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$1,560</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$11,415</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Care Scholarships</td>
<td>$48,588</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$48,588</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1000 Books before Kindergarten</td>
<td>$8,443</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$1,474</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$9,917</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Support</td>
<td>$49,816</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$49,816</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative Support</td>
<td>$18,042</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$556</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$18,598</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</td>
<td>$191,302</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$9,524</td>
<td>$43,114</td>
<td>$243,939</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Since inception, Fairfield County First Steps has leveraged $1,141,685 from sources outside of state government. That’s 41 cents for every state dollar.
Through partnerships and collaborations, as well as financial support from grants and contributions, Fairfield County First Steps leverages state dollars to enhance and expand services to children and families.

**Funding Support**

- State of South Carolina: $200,000
  (through South Carolina First Steps)
- United Way of the Midlands
- Local citizens of Fairfield County

**In-Kind Support**

- Winnsboro Woman’s Club
- Fairfield County School District
- Dollywood Foundation
- Italian Garden Restaurant

Working closely with local childcare providers is a must. Pictured here are the owners of one of our local facilities.

**How your support helps children in Fairfield County:**

- $30 provides a young child a book per month for one year!
- Donations are accepted for any programs that you might have a particular interest in.
- Fairfield County participates in Midlands Gives each May.

**HOW TO GIVE:** Mail your donation to: Fairfield County First Steps
PO Box 215
Winnsboro, SC 29180

**Save the Date!**

- Fairfield County First Steps Annual Meeting – January 29, 2018 (tentative)
- Week of the Young Child – April 16 – 20, 2018
- Midlands Gives Day – Tuesday, May 1, 2018

Support Fairfield County First Steps today through a tax-deductible donation, or volunteer!
Having children removed from the home by DSS is never a situation we want any of our families to be in. However, as we found with one family, this was the reality check that they needed. Not having good role models can oftentimes be the crutch that a young parent leans on. This is a time when Parents As Teachers can make a big difference in the life of a family. This year, we are happy to report that one family went from having DSS as a constant in their family, to working their way off of public assistance. These parents dug in and found that they are ultimately where the buck stops for their children. Plans were immediately put in place for these parents to secure stable reliable employment, find suitable housing for a family of four, and for anger management to become a part of therapy. Additionally, the family had intensive visits with our Parent Educator, both with and without the children. It didn’t take long for this family to become a complete unit again. As sad as we were to lose them as clients, we could not be happier that this reunited family now has the tools needed to make wise choices for their family on a daily basis.

**First Steps goes to cooking school!**

Clients in our First Steps programs were given the opportunity to participate in a seven week cooking class through DHEC. A trip to the grocery store was the first lesson. While there, the participants were taught about the importance of reading labels and how to shop the exterior walls for the healthiest ingredients. At the end of this class, participants were challenged to plan and purchase foods for a meal using only $10. All were successful! For the next six weeks, participants were given lessons in preparing healthy meals and snacks for families. These lessons included using tools properly, cooking, adding various foods for desired flavors, and clean up. At the end of each class, participants were able to take home a bag of ingredients to make these recipes for their families.
The Fairfield County First Steps Board consists of community leaders who are available with support like we have never had. We have a quorum at every meeting and we have interested people who are truly devoted to making sure the children of Fairfield County arrive at school ready to learn and succeed. Covering many different areas, and adding a non-profit leader this year, has given new drive and determination that is more apparent than ever. Involving the community in the success of its youngest citizens is at the forefront of every mind.

**Working in the Community**

Fairfield County First Steps Partnership Board, 2016-17

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Board Category</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rebecca Douglas, Chair</td>
<td>Retired Early Childhood teacher</td>
<td>Legislative Appointee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mac Russell, Vice Chair</td>
<td>DHEC</td>
<td>Mandated – DHEC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jill Wagers, Secretary</td>
<td>Speech Therapist, FCSD</td>
<td>Early Development/Education Provider</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dee Mattox</td>
<td>Retired Nurse, Part-time Nurse for Council on Aging</td>
<td>Healthcare Provider</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Darreyl Davis</td>
<td>Isola/Believers &amp; Achievers</td>
<td>Nonprofit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarah McMaster</td>
<td>Retired Librarian</td>
<td>Legislative Appointee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yolande Montgomery</td>
<td>FCSD</td>
<td>Mandated – School District</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eric Robinson</td>
<td>Librarian</td>
<td>Mandated – Library</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kay Hensley</td>
<td>Speech Pathologist</td>
<td>Family Education and Support Provider</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allison Lawrence</td>
<td>Kindergarten Teacher</td>
<td>Pre-Kindergarten through Primary Educator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connie Pete</td>
<td>Palmetto Imagining Technology</td>
<td>Business</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jimmy Burroughs</td>
<td>Christ Centeral Ministry</td>
<td>Faith</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
The Goals of First Steps

(1) provide parents with access to the support they might seek and want to strengthen their families and to promote the optimal development of their preschool children;
(2) increase comprehensive services so children have reduced risk for major physical, developmental, and learning problems;
(3) promote high-quality preschool programs that provide a healthy environment that will promote normal growth and development;
(4) provide services so all children receive the protection, nutrition, and health care needed to thrive in the early years of life so they arrive at school ready to succeed; and
(5) mobilize communities to focus efforts on providing enhanced services to support families and their young children so as to enable every child to reach school healthy and ready to succeed.

-- Section 59-152-30

Interested parents with Medicaid-eligible children who live in eligible school districts can contact any participating provider to complete an application for free, full-day 4K. To view a list of participating First Steps 4K providers, visit:

http://scfirststeps.org/4k

Low income families with children 0-36 months, and families with infants or toddlers with special needs, are invited to apply for this year-round, comprehensive program. Available in the following counties: Allendale, Anderson, Bamberg, Berkeley, Dillon, Georgetown, Laurens, Lexington, Newberry, Orangeburg, Saluda and York, and coming soon to Fairfield and McCormick counties. To apply, visit:

http://scfirststeps.org/ehs/

[I CAN] is First Steps’ public awareness campaign for school readiness, in support of the state’s Profile of the Ready Kindergartener. Includes resources for parents, providers and communities to learn what they can do to support school readiness.

Visit: ican.sc
Like us on Facebook: icansc